



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL  
DE LA  
CROIX-ROUGE

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LE PRÉSIDENT

Geneva, November 27 th, 1962.

Mr. Secretary-General,

*Handwritten signature*  
*29/11*  
*C.V.*

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the "Memorandum for the Record", which Your Excellency had the kindness to send me through Ambassador Spinelli, Director of the European Office, received on November 15 th.

I wish to thank you for this document which you discussed, in draft form, with my colleague Mr. Ruegger, prior to his departure from New York on November 10 th.

The International Committee have taken note of the principles set down by you in paragraphs A and B of the Memorandum, which conform with the general principles of the Red Cross.

To His Excellency  
U Thant  
Acting Secretary-General  
The United Nations Organization  
New York N. Y.

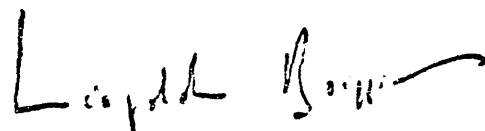
With regard to paragraph C of the Memorandum, concerning more specifically the recent Cuban issue which, I feel, is now on the way to a final solution and therefore no longer actual from the International Committee's point of view, I can let you have, at a later date, if this should interest you and your services, a more detailed Memorandum setting out the steps we envisaged, at the time, with a view to the designation of a corps of inspectors to be put at your disposal.

This document raises a number of technical questions which would also have arisen if implementation of your request had been necessary. It also lays down the broad lines on which such an inspection should have been based.

I am sure that you will agree that our recent exchange of views have helped to set out some of the principles according to which our two organizations could co-operate in the event of a major crisis involving the threat of thermo nuclear warfare.

With my highest consideration, I am,  
Mr. Secretary-General,

Yours very faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Léopold Boissier', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Léopold BOISSIER

9 November 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

This memorandum sets out the points discussed in principle by the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross with representatives of the Secretary-General to serve as a basis for an agreement should the necessity for such arrangements arise. It is made clear that not all points have as yet been agreed upon by the Governments concerned.

A. The International Committee of the Red Cross will offer its good offices should agreement be reached between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Cuba for the inspection of ships inbound for Cuban ports involving the use of personnel of the International Committee of the Red Cross, acting under the responsibility of the United Nations. This is on the understanding that all parties concerned will have agreed to this inspection.

B. The Secretary-General will take note that the International Committee of the Red Cross in agreeing to the use of its good offices has based its decision to assist in an operation outside its traditional and conventional activities on the fact that this operation is in conformity with the spirit of resolutions adopted at recent International Conferences of the Red Cross favouring activities for the maintenance of international peace and on the desire to spare peoples from the suffering which the International Committee of the Red Cross endeavours to lighten in time of war or civil conflicts. The Secretary-General will also

take note of the declaration of the International Committee of the Red Cross that the measures which it agrees to undertake must be consonant with the principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence which are the basis of all its activities in times of crisis.

C. In the light of the agreement of the parties concerned and of the foregoing declarations, arrangements between the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross should include the following points:

(1) The International Committee of the Red Cross shall with the least possible delay select and appoint under short term Red Cross contracts a chief inspector and the necessary number of other inspectors qualified to carry out the functions provided in the agreement between the parties.

(2) The United Nations will reimburse the International Committee of the Red Cross for the salaries and allowances of the inspectors and any related expenses.

(3) The inspectors shall be loaned by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations and shall perform their duties under the authority and responsibility of the Secretary-General.

(4) All instructions by the Secretary-General to the inspectors shall be in accord with the general principles of

the Red Cross. Copies of all instructions shall be sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

General Instructions shall not be issued until the International Committee of the Red Cross has confirmed that they are consonant with the general principles of the Red Cross.

(5) No use whatsoever will be made of the Red Cross flag and the inspectors will not wear the Red Cross emblem. However, if the Secretary-General so directs, they will wear United Nations arm bands and/or the United Nations emblem.

(6) The inspectors based at sea will operate from one or more merchant vessels of a neutral State. The ship or ships aboard which the inspectors are based will in no case resort to force or request armed intervention from any Power whatsoever. In case of opposition to inspection, the Chief Inspector or his representative will inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(7) It is recognized that the weapons for which inspection is to be made are of a size large enough to permit easy identification and therefore shipboard inspections will be possible and effective.